

Opposition front is all mixed-up, says Dr M

D KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Barisan Nasional is confident of retaining a two-thirds majority in Parliament because the opposition front is obviously all mixed up and has no clear direction.

Describing it as in a state of *cacamerba*, he said: "You have a Pas member joining Hamim and contesting as a Semangat 46 candidate and then Pandithan's group using the DAP symbol in some areas and the Semangat 46 sym-

bol in others.

"I don't know what they are doing. We have to ask them. They must make up their mind what they want to do. If they want to be the alternative to the Barisan Nasional, they must at least have some credibility."

The Dewan Bahasa Malay dictionary defines *cacamerba* as something containing various elements which are haphazardly and hurriedly mixed.

The Prime Minister was replying to questions at a

press conference after launching the Barisan Nasional manifesto at Menara Datuk Onn.

Dr Mahathir said he did not think the opposition front could be a credible alternative to the BN as its members, notably Pas and the DAP, had different beliefs.

"Before anything, they aren't talking to each other. Can you imagine Tengku Razaleigh presiding at a Cabinet meeting, with Pas on one side looking the other way and DAP on another side, looking another

way. How do they do it when they cannot sit at the same table?

"They can have two rooms, one for the DAP and the other for Pas. Tengku Razaleigh will shuttle between the two rooms. He goes to one room and Pas will say they support Sadam Hussein and then to the other room, and the DAP will say they do not.

"As you know, Pas is taking sides in the Middle East crisis, whereas we don't. We only support Muslims."

Dr Mahathir said the

Government had proven that it had managed the country well and had put paid to all allegations that it had spent money on wasteful projects.

He cited as an example the Penang Bridge, which was a target of criticisms.

"Look at how well the project has turned out," he said.

All the Government's programmes, including privatisation and corporatisation, have been successful, he added.

K.H. Lim reports from Betong, Sarawak, that Dr

Mahathir described Semangat 46 as a desperate match-maker trying to marry two groups with different ideologies into an opposition alliance. This was Semangat 46's ploy to wrest power.

Dr Mahathir, on the first leg of a three-day tour of Sarawak and Sabah, was speaking at the opening of the \$2.4 million district office complex in Betong.

Among those present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Alfred Jabu.

Addressing the 10,000-strong crowd at the ceremony, he said a former Minister, who is now a Semangat 46 leader, was power-crazy and only wanted high position.

"When he was in the Government, the country had heavy debts and yet he spent a lot of the country's money, but mostly on his own office," he said.

"His office was grand and beautiful because he spent \$4 million on it. Can we trust such a person to take care of the nation's finances?"